

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-16, 25-53 and 55 without prejudice.

Please replace claims 17-24 with the following amended claims. Marked-up sheets showing the changes of claims 17-24 are enclosed.

17) (Amended) A synthetic vector consisting of:

- (b)
- a nucleic acid sequence coding for a first origin of replication;
 - a nucleic acid sequence coding for a selection agent;
 - a trfA locus coding for a protein that permits an increase in the replication rate of the vector; and
 - a nucleic acid sequence coding for a T-DNA, including a right border, RB, and a left border, LB, which permit the vector to function as a binary plasmid.

18) (Amended) The synthetic vector of claim 17 wherein a multiple cloning site is situated near the right border RB of the T-DNA.

19) (Amended) The synthetic vector of claim 17 wherein said vector comprises a nucleic acid sequence coding for at least one expression promoter and at least one transcription terminator situated between the left border, LB, and the right border, RB, of the T-DNA.

20) (Amended) The synthetic vector of claim 19, wherein said expression promoter is chosen from the group consisting of a constitutive promoter, an inducible promoter, and a tissue specific promoter.

21) (Amended) The synthetic vector of claim 19 wherein said expression promoter is a plant expression promoter.

22) (Amended) The synthetic vector according to claim 21 wherein said expression promoter is chosen from the group consisting of: the 35S CaMV promoter; the ep35S of CaMV; the pea plastocyanin gene promoter, and its "enhancer"; the "high molecular weight glutenin"